



In Vitro Bacterial Leakage at the Implant-Abutment Connection of Two Dental Implant Systems with Internal Connection

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ABSTRACT

Objectives: Bacterial leakage at the implant-abutment interface is one of the main causes of peri-implant inflammation. One of the factors that influences bacterial leakage is the structural design of the interface. Considering the limited studies that have examined slip-joint connections, a comparative study of bacterial leakage was performed on two different systems namely Zimmer (Tapered Screw-Vent, Zimmer Dental) with slip-joint connection and Argon (Konus K3pro, Argon Implants) with conical connection.

Materials and Methods: Twenty-two implants were selected in 2 groups (11 Zimmer with slip-joint connection, and 11 Argon with conical connection) with similar platforms. *Escherichia coli* (E. coli) suspension (2 µL) was pipetted into the internal lumen of implants. The abutments were screwed onto the implants with a closing torque of 30 Ncm. The assemblies were placed in culture broth for 6, 24, 48 and 72 h, and 7 and 14 days. The colonies were counted and analyzed by the Mann-Whitney test ($\alpha=0.05$).

Results: Microleakage was observed in 20% of the samples of conical connection group after 6 h to 2 days, and in 50% of the samples in slip-joint connection group after 3 to 7 days. There was a significant difference in bacterial leakage rate between the two implant groups ($P<0.001$) but no significant difference was seen in bacterial leakage over time ($P>0.05$).

Conclusion: Type of connection had a significant effect on bacterial leakage, but the rate of bacterial leakage did not significantly change over time.

Keywords: Dental Implants; Dental Leakage; Bacterial Load; Dental Implant-Abutment Design

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INTRODUCTION

In recent years, implant-supported restorations have been widely recognized as the first choice for rehabilitation of edentulous areas due to their optimal esthetics and high success rate [1]. Success in implant therapy depends on the balance between the biological and mechanical factors [2].

Mechanical factors, such as the implant-abutment precise fit, are involved in the success of dental implant rehabilitation [3-5]. Implant-abutment connection misfit also affects the biological factors. The success of dental implants firstly depends on the osseointegration phenomenon and secondary, preservation of the supporting bone [6-8].